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PUBLISHING
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CROW
OF THE BEAR CLAN
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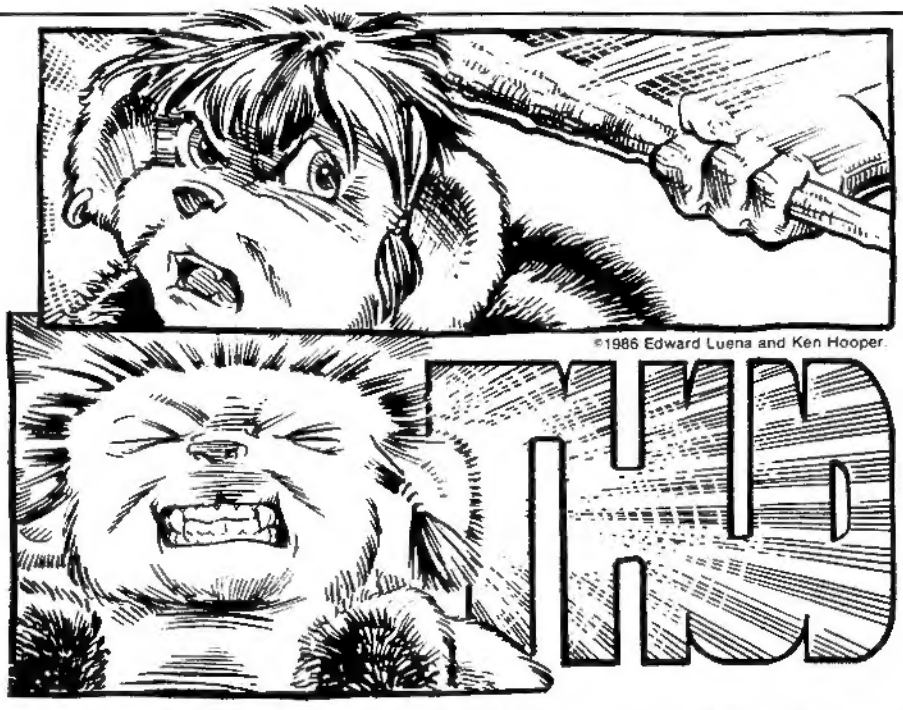

TALK ABOUT A HEADACHE

Once in awhile a project comes along that appears to be cursed. If the U.S. Post Office doesn't hold onto various important packages (script,contracts, art, etc.), then someone's dog ends up eating something (logo, color separations, or in this case, crow).

This, was one of those projects. I'll spare you the details, and just tell you the good news — Ken Hooper and Edward Luena are two of the nicest guys you'd ever want to meet. It also works out that they can write and draw pretty well.

Ken is one of those comic book artists, who typically grew up on comics and science fiction. He credits his elementary schoolmates (for insisting he draw "Ultraman" again and again), his father's love of science fiction and his high school teacher Jim Enemark, for his inspiration and development.

Edward Luena studied art in high school and college and is a part owner of the Game Warden comic store in Marysville, California. One day, long before anyone heard of Ewoks, he drew Wolverine as a teddy bear and people loved it. He followed by drawing a variety of superheroes as teddy bears, and a business was born.

Ken and Edward hooked up at the Creation con in 1983, developed Crow of the Bearclan, and eventually brought it to Blackthorne, where it fell in my lap. For a couple of first timers, they did a very good job. I must admit, I'm glad to say that it's finally out.

Cliff MacGillivray

A Blackthorne Editor exorcises a comic.

***CROW OF THE BEARCLAN #1*, October 1986.** Published bi-monthly by BLACKTHORNE PUBLISHING, INC., 786 Blackthorne Avenue, El Cajon, California 92020, U.S.A. Telephone (619) 463-9603. *Steven J. Schanes* and *Ann E. Fera*, Publishers. *Paul Tallerday*, Production Coordinator. *Lynn Cobb*, Production Manager. *Circulation Manager*, Ann E. Fera. *John Stephenson*, Staff Editor. *Cliff MacGillivray*, marketing/Promotions. *Crow of the Bearclan is* ©1986 Edward Luena and Ken Hooper. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in part or whole without specific written permission of the publisher and copyright holder(s). No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions with any living or dead names, characters, persons and/or institutions is intended, and similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Cover art colored by Chris Miller. First Edition, October 1986

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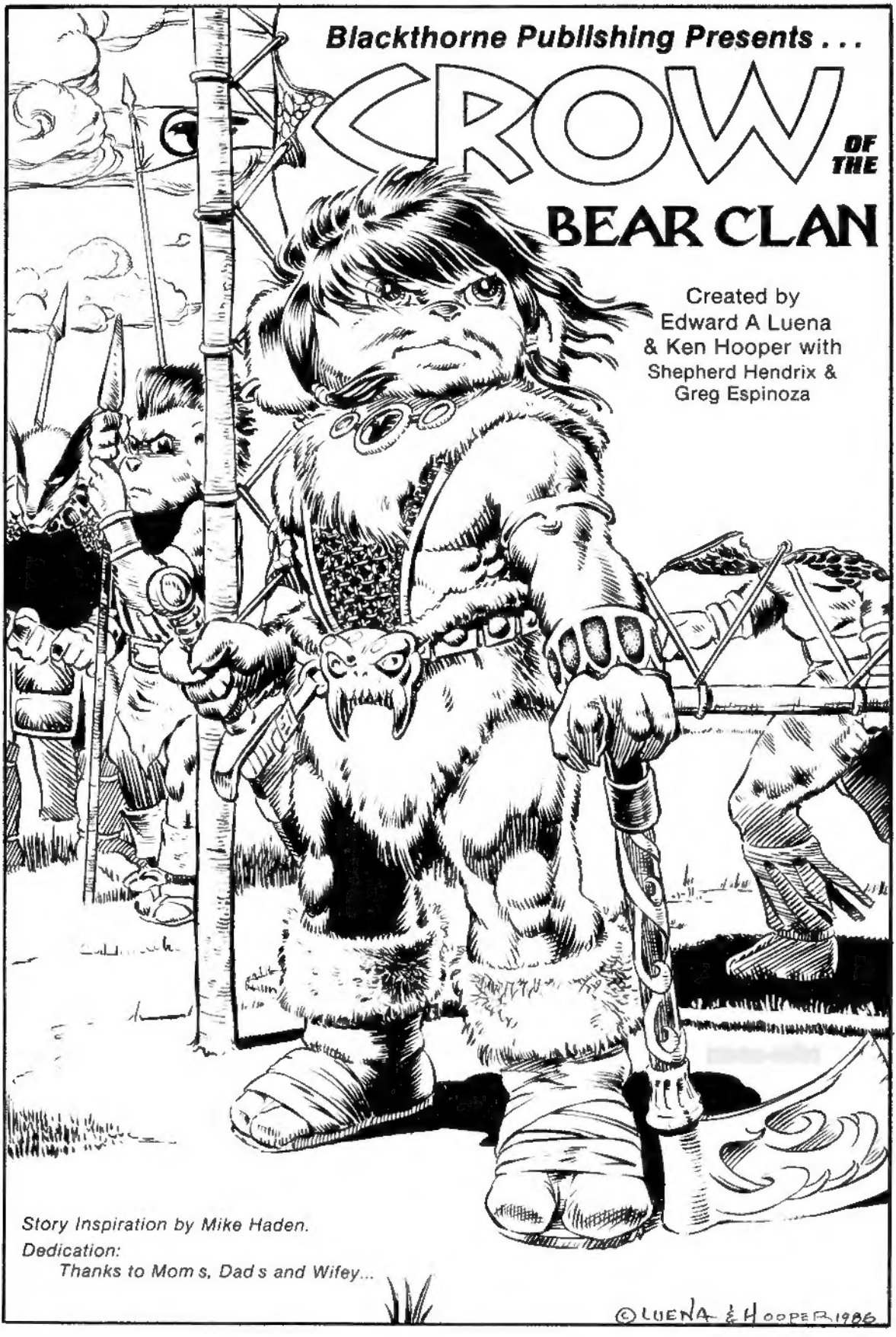
Blackthorne Publishing Presents . . .
CROW OF THE
BEAR CLAN
Created by
Edward A Luena
& Ken Hooper with
Shepherd Hendrix &
Greg Espinoza
Story Inspiration by Mike Haden.
Dedication:
Thanks to Moms, Dads and Wifey...
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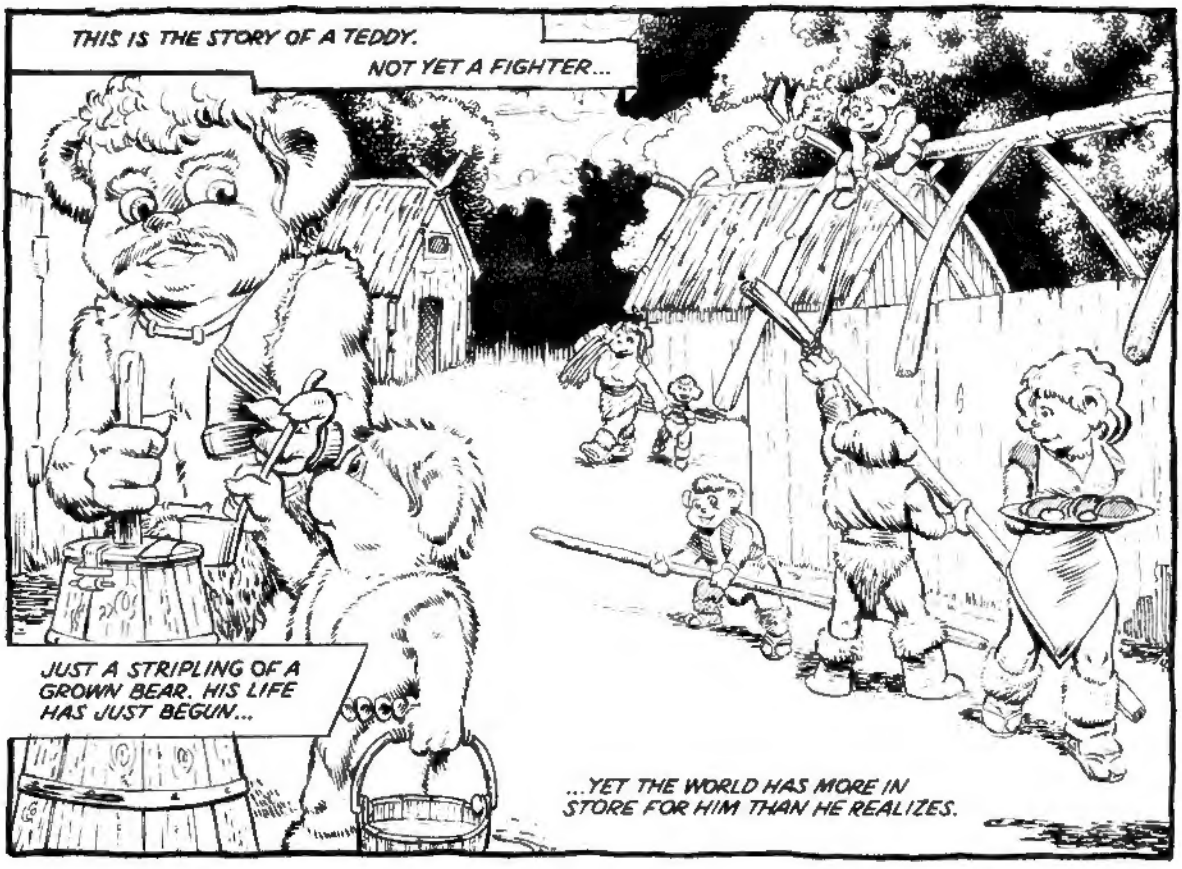

THIS IS THE STORY OF A TEDDY.
NOT YET A FIGHTER...
JUST A STRIPLING OF A GROWN BEAR. HIS LIFE HAS JUST BEGUN...
...YET THE WORLD HAS MORE IN STORE FOR HIM THAN HE REALIZES.

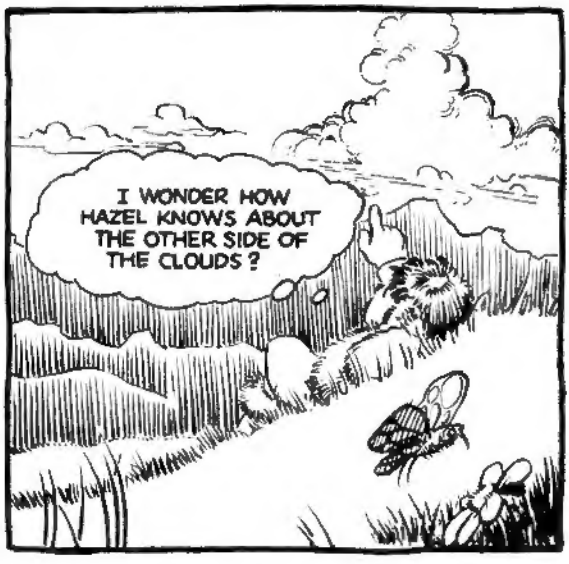
TO LEARN IS THE MAIN OBJECTIVE IN A CUB'S EARLY LIFE.
...OR SO THEY'RE TAUGHT.

BUT THERE IS ALWAYS ONE WHO IS DIFFERENT FROM THE REST...
LIKE CROW...

SO THEY THINK THAT SOUTHFIELD HAS THE BEST BERRIES.
WELL, I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO SHOW THEM THERE ARE BETTER PLACES.

IT'S NOT SO DIFFERENT FROM OUR VALLEY. JUST A BIT BIGGER.

THE WORD STATED THAT NO BEAR MAY LEAVE THE VALLEY UNLESS THERE WAS JUST CAUSE, AND IT WAS DEEMED SO BY THE COUNCIL...
TIME FOR A LITTLE SNACK.


I WONDER HOW HAZEL KNOWS ABOUT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CLOUDS?

THIS IS THE BEST MASH YET! TOO BAD I CAN'T SHARE IT, BUT THE WORD SAYS THAT IT'S ONLY FOR CEREMONIES AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

CROW HELPED HIS FATHER TO MAKE THE CEREMONIAL MASH, AND QUICKLY PICKED UP THE WAY IT WAS DONE.
IN FACT, THIS WAS ALSO TRUE OF THE OTHER THINGS THE ELDERS TAUGHT HIM.

AH, PITS! I'LL BE LATE!
OH, WELL, IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME...
SOMETHING RETURNS TO THE MOTHER... BUT WHAT? THIS IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT.
SNIFF
AN OMINOUS FEELING STEALS INTO CROW'S HEART AS HE REALIZES HOW FAR FROM HOME HE REALLY IS...
I'D BETTER PICK UP MY PACE!

UNKNOWN TO CROW, ACROSS FROM ARE THE ELDERS GREYBEARD, CLODBUSTER, STRONG-BACK AND THRESHER.

A SHIFT IN THE WIND SUDDENLY ALERTS THE SAURANS.
REALIZING THEY LOST THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE...
...THE BEARS ATTACK.
CHUK!
THE SAURANS WERE MORE PREPARED THAN EXPECTED.
BUT THERE IS STRENGTH IN DETERMINATION...
UNGH!
OOF!
YEOW!
LUBNA & HOOPER '86

...AS THE BEARS DEMONSTRATE.
THEIR ATTACK IS FIERCE, AIDED BY HIDDEN TRIBESMEN LOBBING FLAMING GOURDS.
LOOK OUT! FIREBALLS!

GET HELP!
GET THE CHILDREN!
HAH!
DIE, CREATURE!
NO!
NYAAA!
SSOKK
STRONGBACK, TAKE THE CLAN AND FLEE!

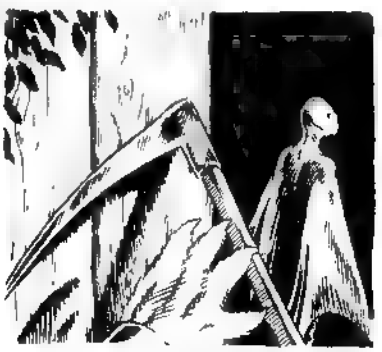
CROW'S ADMIRATION OF HIS ELDERS HAS INCREASED, BUT NOW FEAR GRIPS HIM.
THRESHER, TO MY SIDE!
WITH YOU, GREYBEARD!
BEAR CLAN, SURRENDER TO SAURAN MIGHT, OR...
SHOW ME HOW, SAURAN!
URK

THE BLOODFEST SOON BEGINS...

...AS THE SAURANS EAT THE BEARS.

FIGHTING FEAR, CROW FORMS A DESPERATE PLAN...

CHUD



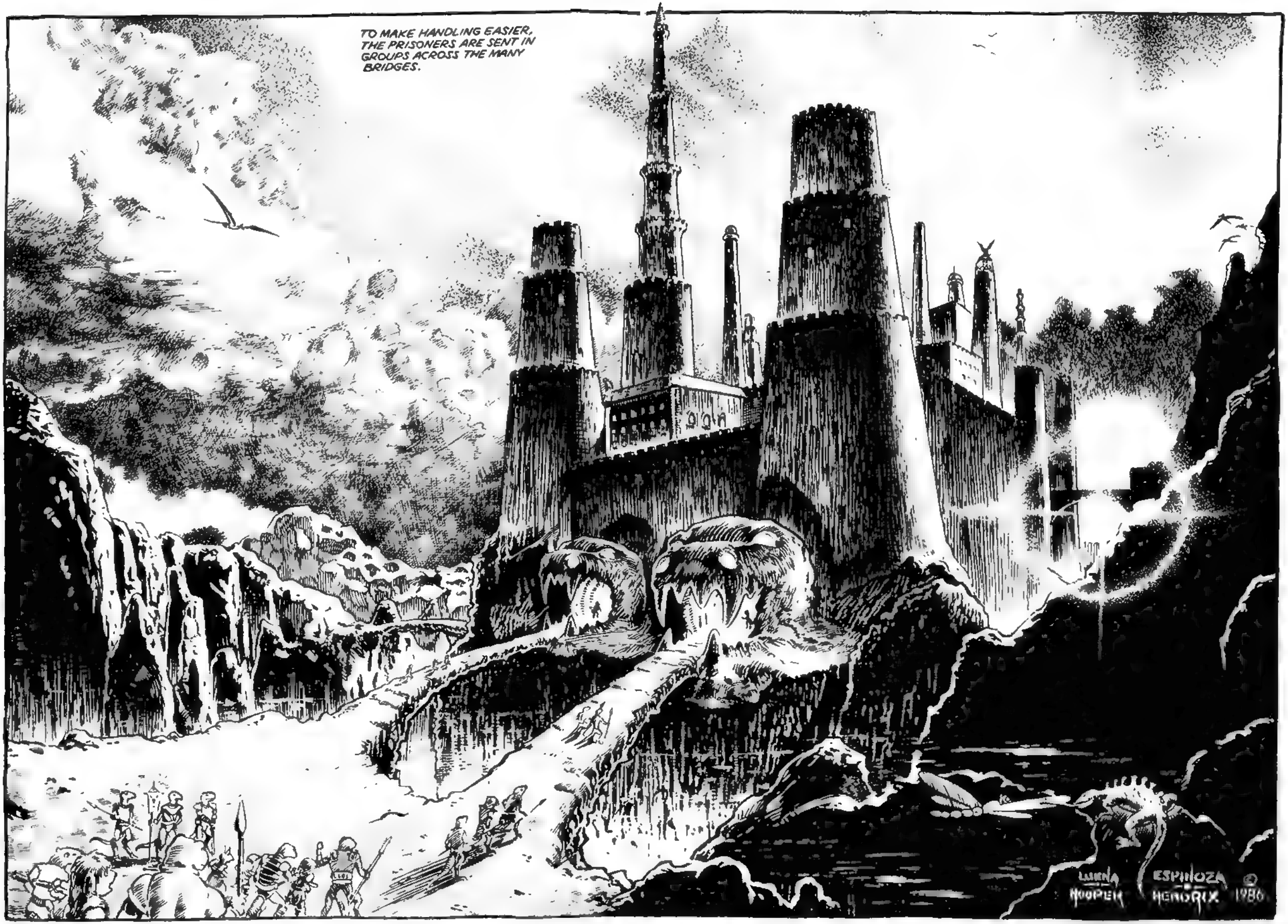
DIE, SAURAN!
WHAT INEXPERIENCE CAN'T DO...
...LUCK WILL!

COME... LOOSE... DARN IT!
YOU'RE NEXT WHEN I GET THIS LOOSE!
I WANT HIM ALIVE!
THUD
SET UP AN OUTPOST AND PREPARE THIS WHELP FOR TRAVEL. I WILL SEND REINFORCEMENTS BACK TO RELIEVE YOUR NEW COMMAND.
RIGHT AWAY, LORD.

SATISFIED WITH THE NIGHT'S WORK, IG GATHERS THE REST OF THE SAURANS AND PREPARES TO LEAVE.
ALL WAS QUIET AGAIN, SAVE FOR THE FLAPPING OF HUGE WINGS SLOWLY FADING INTO THE NIGHT.

WE WORK FOR ONE LOUSY PRISONER, AND HE'S NOT EVEN WORTH A MOUTHFUL.
HMMM.
OOFF!
MOVE!
TRAVELLING THE REST OF THE NIGHT, THEY FINALLY LEAVE THE VALLEY AS DAWN BREAKS.
WILL I EVER SEE HOME AGAIN?

THE MONTHS GO BY SLOWLY FOR CROW AND HIS CAPTORS ALWAYS WELL-GUARDED, THERE WAS NO CHANCE FOR ESCAPE.
JOINING A LARGER PARTY, HE REALIZES HE WAS NOT THE ONLY ONE CAUGHT.
MOVE ALONG.
DESPAIR OVERCOMES HIM AS HE SEES HUNDREDS BOUND FOR THE SAME FATE.

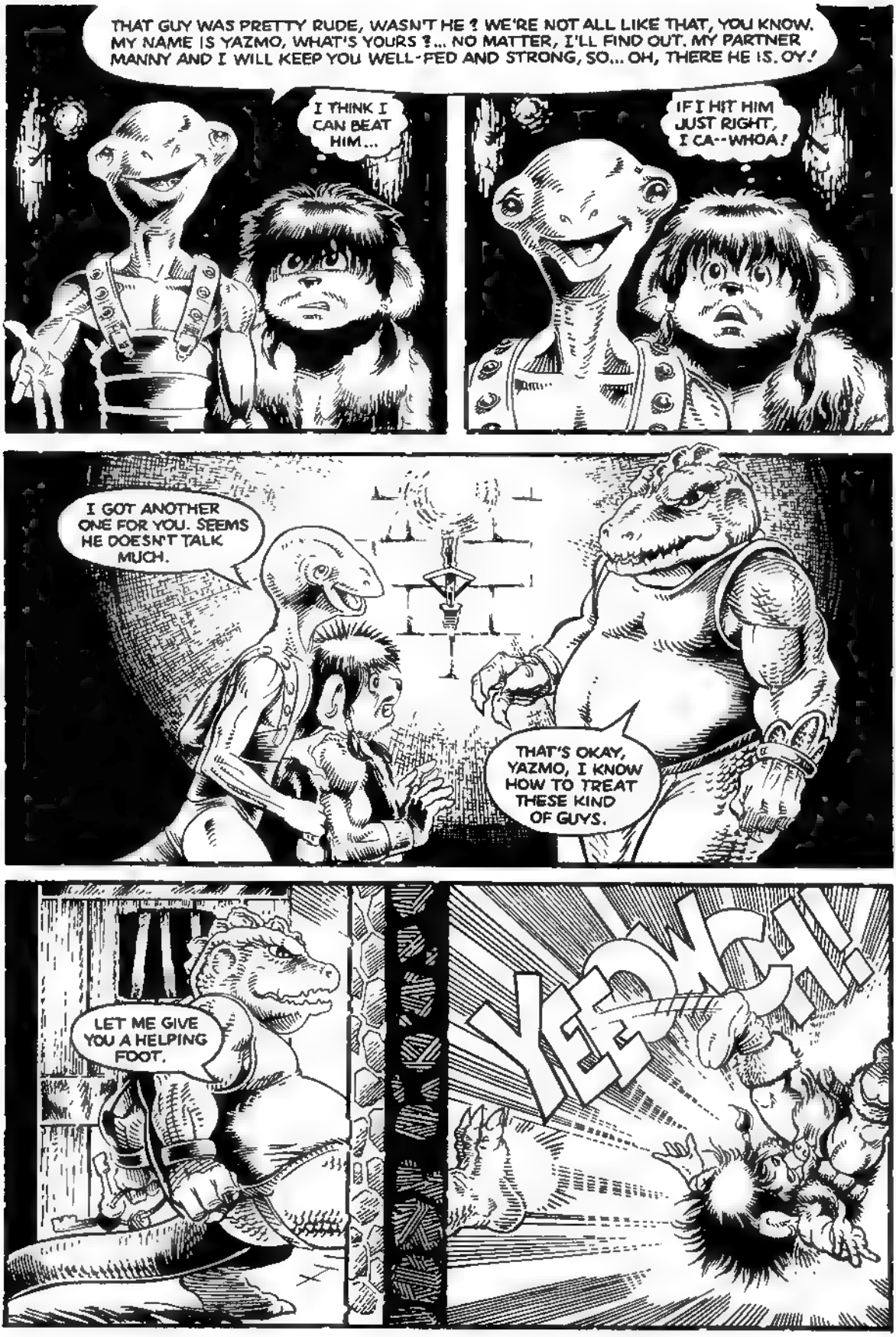

TO MAKE HANDLING EASIER, THE PRISONERS ARE SENT IN GROUPS ACROSS THE MANY BRIDGES.
LUBNA HOOPER
ESPINOZA HENDRIX
1986

WELCOME BACK. LOOKS LIKE YOU GUYS WERE SUCCESSFUL I BET YOU CAN HARDLY WAIT TO GET TO YOUR FAMILY.
YES, SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I'M COMING HOME TODAY.
KEEP THEM MOVING.

LET THE JAILERS TAKE OVER. I WANT TO GO HOME AND GET DRUNK.

ELSEWHERE IN THE CASTLE:
GREAT GHERA WILL BE PROUD OF YOU.
YOU FOUND THEM, GOOD.
YES, JUST LIKE YOU SAID. IT'S A SHAME WE HAD TO KILL SOME.
THEN YOU CAPTURED THE VILLAGE...
UNFORTUNATELY, THE REST OF THE VILLAGERS GOT AWAY. IT WAS AS IF THEY KNEW WE WERE COMING.
THAT MUST BE OLD HAZEL'S DOING.
WE DID MANAGE TO CAPTURE ONE.

FROM WHAT YOU TOLD ME, I'M ACTUALLY SURPRISED THAT WE ACTUALLY CAUGHT ONE.
AS I AM, MOST ASSUREDLY.
BUT, THERE'S OUR PROOF. WHEN WE FIND THE REST, WE WILL EITHER HAVE THEM JOIN US OR KILL THEM ALL.
BUT YOU CAN'T CONQUER WHAT YOU CAN'T FIND.
TRUE...
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE YOU. YOU'LL HELP US BECAUSE WE HAVE WHAT YOU WANT.
YES, *POWER!* POWER ENOUGH TO RULE THE COLD REGION. POWER OF THE *GEARS* AS WELL AS THE SOURCE.
MOVE!
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN BORN A SAURAN, YOU DO WELL WITH US. BUT COME, LET US INFORM GREAT GHERA.


THAT GUY WAS PRETTY RUDE, WASN'T HE? WE'RE NOT ALL LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW. MY NAME IS YAZMO, WHAT'S YOURS?... NO MATTER, I'LL FIND OUT. MY PARTNER MANNY AND I WILL KEEP YOU WELL-FED AND STRONG, SO... OH, THERE HE IS. OY!
I THINK I CAN BEAT HIM...
IF I HIT HIM JUST RIGHT, I CA--WHOA!
I GOT ANOTHER ONE FOR YOU. SEEMS HE DOESN'T TALK MUCH.
THAT'S OKAY, YAZMO, I KNOW HOW TO TREAT THESE KIND OF GUYS.
LET ME GIVE YOU A HELPING FOOT.
YEOWCH!

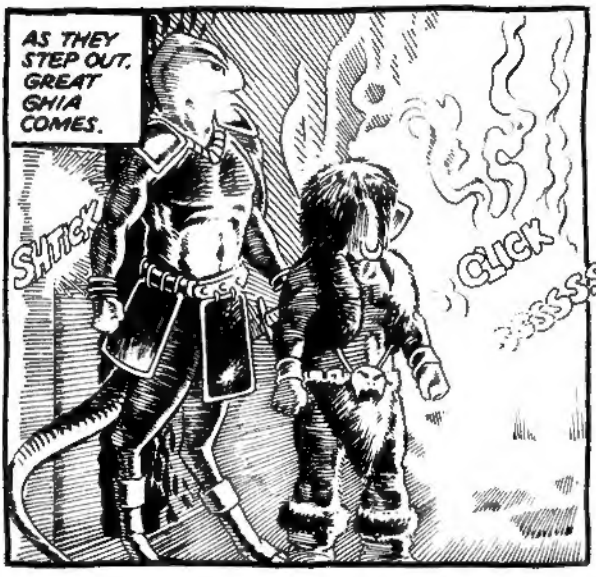
WELCOME TO SAURAZ. HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR STAY.
CREEEAAK
SLAM
HAHAHAHAHAHA
SOMETIMES I'M SO FUNNY, I MAKE MYSELF LAUGH.
HAHAHAHAHAHAH
THEY CAN'T KEEP ME IN HERE.
NO WAY!
NO H--
DINGGGG
DONGGGG

OOOH, I GUESS THEY CAN.
ANYBODY THERE?
WHO'S THERE? WHERE ARE YOU?
OVER HERE.
WHERE'S "HERE"?
HERE...
...AGAINST THIS WALL. I'LL BE WITH YOU AS SOON AS I, UNGH, MOVE THIS HERE, UNNGH...
...RUNNGH...
...ROCK! THERE!
HELLO, THERE. NAME'S LEMONT RED.
NOT BAD FOR AN OLD MAN, EH?

YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN HERE FOR AGES, BUT I'VE MANAGED TO SURVIVE. IT ISN'T EASY, BUT I DID. LASTED 20 YEARS, FOUND OUT WHAT MAKES THESE GUYS TICK. THERE'S ONE THING YOU CAN...
BY GOLLY, THAT'S IT! I'LL TELL YOU!
WATCH IT!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ACT CRAZY!
YOU ARE CRAZY!
SEE, IT WORKS! BELIEVE ME IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE. YOU BETTER LISTEN TO ME, OR YOU'LL WIND UP IN THEIR BELLIES!

WHAT WAS THAT?
--CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. HE JUST GOT HERE, AND YOU WANT HIM OUT ALREADY.
THEY'RE COMING FOR YOU. IF THEY CATCH ME HERE, I'LL BE KILLED. QUICK, GET THE ROCK.
DON'T LET THEM KNOW I WAS HERE, AND REMEMBER, ACT CRAZY.
WILL YOU HURRY UP?!
--MMMF!
Whew!

OUT, YOU!
COME BACK SOON!
STOP HERE.
WE'LL BE IN SHORTLY. AS SOON AS THE DOORS OPEN, STEP IN.
CLICK
SHHHHHHHHK
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO.
WOW!
CLICK
HMMMMMMMMM
HUH?
HE HE HE.


AS THEY STEP OUT, GREAT GHIA COMES.
SHICK
CLICK
SSSS

GREAT GHERA, WHICH OF THE CONTESTANTS SHALL BE YOUR CHAMPION ?
FIVE GZIN ON THE BADGER. GIVE OTHERS BETS.
A NOD FROM GHERA, AND...
VRREEEEEEEEEEEEEEE...
THE FIGHT BEGINS...
IT IS QUICK AND SAVAGE.

LOOK INTO MY EYES AND SEE THE MANFEST DESTINY OF OUR WORLD.

THE COMPLETE AND ORDERLY CONTROL OF THE SAURAN RACE AND ITS MOST HOLY BELIEFS!

WE ARE YOUR MASTERS NOW, CUB. THIS DOES NOT HAVE TO HAPPEN. WE HAVE NEED OF YOUR PEOPLE.
WITH THEM AT OUR SIDE, WE CAN RULE THE WORLD. JOIN US. THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

CROW REPLIES WITH:
EH! WHY, YOU INSOLENT PUP!

YEAH, THAT'S ME! WHATTAYA GONNA DO ABOUT IT?

OBVIOUSLY, YOU'VE MADE YOUR CHOICE.
WHAT IS YOUR COMMAND, GREAT GHERA?
KILL HIM!
I THINK I MADE THE WRONG CHOICE.
YOU'RE NOT KILLING ME! IF I'M GOING TO DIE, I'LL LET THE MOTHER DRINK MY BLOOD!
WHOAAA!
MOTHER, TAKE ME!
TO BE CONTINUED...!